



AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH &
EXTENSION SYSTEM
STRATEGIC PLAN
2009-2013

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The Agricultural Research and Extension System (ARES) is part of the Land-Grant system established by the Morrill Act of 1862. The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System, established in 1915 under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, conducts educational outreach programs to improve the quality of life for Idaho citizens through educating by helping them apply the latest scientific technology to their communities, businesses, lives and families. The Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, established in 1892 under the Hatch Act of 1887, conducts fundamental and applied research to solve problems and meet needs in Idaho's agriculture, natural resources, youth and family and related areas.

VISION STATEMENT

As a dynamic and responsive knowledge organization serving needs in agriculture, natural resources, the environment, families, consumers, youth and communities, we will integrate the functions of research and extension in an environment of academic excellence that addresses:

- the needs for lifelong learning through innovative programs,
- creative solutions to needs in Idaho through a research system that generates and applies knowledge, and
- an extension system that extends this knowledge to Idaho citizens for use in problem solving at a time and place of their convenience.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Agricultural Research & Extension System's mission is to support economic growth and enhance the quality of life for the people of Idaho by:

- preparing students to be innovative leaders in a global society,
- helping people improve their lives through research-based education and leadership development focused on issues and needs, and
- providing new knowledge to support agriculture and enhance the understanding of natural and human resources.

Goal 1 – Teaching and Learning: Engage students in a transformational experience of discovery, understanding, and global citizenship.

Objective A: Attract and retain the appropriate number of diverse, high quality undergraduate and graduate students.

Performance Measure: The number and diversity of students enrolled in College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' academic programs.

Benchmark: A significant yearly increase in overall enrollment and diversity of enrollment.

Objective B: Use innovative curricula and technology to develop skills for life-long learning and produce globally engaged graduates.

Performance Measure: A broad audience of learners will acquire knowledge and skills appropriate to global awareness through means of cutting-edge technology.

Benchmark: Number of new courses developed and delivered to both traditional and non-traditional learners via non-traditional means.

Objective C: Assess learning outcomes to demonstrate effectiveness and improve our programs.

Performance Measure: Develop and implement methods to independently evaluate and improve student learning.

Benchmark: Implementation of evaluation method and documentation of result.

Goal 2 – Scholarly and Creative Activity: Achieve excellence in scholarship and creative activity through an institutional culture that values and promotes strong academic areas and interdisciplinary collaboration among them.

Objective A: Promote outstanding, influential research in discovery and application/integration that is competitive with peer institutions.

Performance Measure: Increased level of grants awarded for scientific discovery, application/integration.

Benchmark: Increased number of licenses and patents.

Objective B: Provide undergraduates with opportunities to participate in scholarly and creative activity.

Performance Measure: Students will participate in a variety of learning experiences that produce a scholarly product or notable impact to their overall UI education.

Benchmark: Mechanisms for engaging students in scholarly and creative activity will be developed by Fall 2009.

Objective C: Address the needs of stakeholders by conducting research with regional, national and international impact and recognition.

Performance Measure: Develop nationally recognized research programs that meet the identified needs of stakeholders/clientele.

Benchmark: Number of scholarly products and programs delivered addressing identified stakeholder needs.

Goal 3 – Outreach and Engagement: Engage with the public, private and non-profit sectors through mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance teaching, learning, discovery, and creativity.

Objective A: Provide research-based education that anticipates and responds to high priority stakeholder needs.

Performance Measure: Faculty will engage stakeholders in a variety of experiential and traditional learning opportunities that meet their educational and informational needs.

Benchmark: Develop an assessment tool that provides faculty with reliable information regarding stakeholder needs by Fall 2010.

Objective B: Integrate teaching, research and extension using interdisciplinary teams to solve economic, environmental and social problems.

Performance Measure: Funding support for interdisciplinary faculty positions.

Benchmark: Number of interdisciplinary faculty positions among colleges.

Objective C: Address the needs of Idaho's changing population including underserved audiences.

Performance Measure: Development of programs that address the changing demographics and population needs of Idaho stakeholders.

Benchmark: Develop an assessment tool that provides faculty with reliable information regarding stakeholder needs.

Objective D: Maintain a strong statewide presence by strategically locating personnel and resources.

Performance Measure: Place personnel and allocate resources in alignment with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences strategic plan to meet the highest priority needs.

Benchmark: Number of college personnel located at Agricultural Research and Extension Centers throughout the state.

Objective E: Engage students in addressing community based needs using Extension.

Performance Measure: Provide creative and innovative opportunity for students to engage in community based learning experiences of mutual benefit.

Benchmark: A methodology will be developed for engaging students in community based, experiential learning opportunities by Fall 2009.

Goal 4 – Organization, Culture and Climate: Create and sustain an energized community that is adaptable, dynamic, and vital to enable the University to advance strategically and function efficiently.

Objective A: Attract and retain highly qualified, diverse faculty, staff and students.

Performance Measure: Advertise for open positions in areas where we will attract a diverse faculty and staff.

Benchmark: Increased level of diversity within the ranks of College of Agricultural and Life Sciences faculty, staff and administration.

Objective B: Demonstrate fairness in expectation, evaluation and compensation.

Performance Measure: Develop clear performance guidelines for faculty and staff.

Benchmark: College units will clearly document expectations of performance based on rank and position descriptions.

Objective C: Create and support an atmosphere of loyalty, trust, collegiality and inclusiveness.

Performance Measure: Quality of the work environment within College of Agricultural and Life Sciences will be measured by implementing a college-wide survey by Fall 2009.

Benchmark: Survey results will provide a baseline data against which quality of the work environment will be periodically measured.

Objective D: Reduce academic, institutional and administrative barriers to achieve an efficient and creative workplace.

Performance Measure: Develop a taskforce to review current processes and procedures.

Benchmark: Taskforce makes recommendations to the college Dean by Spring 2010.

Key External Factors

Funding:

Economic conditions will continue to impact the success of our strategic plan. Ongoing and adequate levels of funding from both state and federal sources will be critical to our success.

New Leadership:

Achievement of our strategic plan will require understanding and support from the University of Idaho's leadership. Continued changes in leadership positions and strategic planning efforts will greatly influence our ability to meet stakeholder needs.